

1948



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ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
Medical Officer of Health
FOR THE
Borough of
Clifton Dartmouth Hardness

A. DICK, M.D., Ch.B., D.P.H.,
Medical Officer of Health.

K. E. EVANS, M.S.I.A., A.R.S.I.
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Sanitary Officers, Meat Inspectors, etc.

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Medical Officer of Health

for 1948.

*To the Worshipful the Mayor and Aldermen and Councillors
of the Borough of Clifton Dartmouth Hardness.*

Mr. Mayor, Lady Councillor and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for the year 1948.

The Birth Rate increased from 15.42 to 17.64, per thousand population. There was also an increased Death Rate: from 14.37 to 15.55. There were no deaths from maternal causes; no road traffic deaths.

Infectious Disease. The Borough did not escape the country wide epidemic of measles. There were 263 cases within the Boundary; the outbreak was relatively mild and there was no mortality due to the infection or to its complications. There were 30 cases of whooping cough.

Diphtheria Immunisation. There were 56 children aged 0 to 5 years fully protected during the first six months of the year. Thereafter, from July 5th, Devon County Council became the Authority responsible for all Diphtheria Immunisation by powers given in the National Health Service Act, 1946, which became operative on that date.

National Health Service Act, 1946. This Act which came into operation on the 5th July, 1948, gave to the Devon County Council control of Ambulance Services. The St. John Ambulance stationed within the Borough therefore became the responsibility of the County Council together with the duty of providing all ambulance services.

This Act also transferred control of the Infectious Disease Ambulance, stationed at Paignton, to the County Council. The Isolation Hospital at Paignton, which has by joint arrangement received infectious disease cases from Dartmouth has been transferred by this Act to the Regional Hospital Board, newly created by the Act.

Further, this Hospital was closed during October, thereafter all cases of infectious disease requiring hospital treatment and isolation were conveyed to the Isolation Hospital, Torquay.

National Assistance Act, 1948 Section 47 of this Act placed upon the Borough Council certain responsibilities for taking action so that aged and infirm persons, suffering from chronic illness, unable to attend to themselves, or without help or living in insanitary conditions, might receive care and attention. There have been no cases requiring action under the Act this year.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Based on the Registrar General's figures.

1.

Area in acres	...	...	1925
Population—census 1931 (April)	...	...	6707
Registrar-General's estimated resident population 1948,	...	...	5723
Number of inhabited houses,	...	...	1649
Rateable value	...	...	£51,236
Sum represented by ld. rate	...	...	£205

2.

Extracts from Vital Statistics for the year.

		Total	Male	Female
Live Births	...	101	48	53
Legitimate	...	98	45	53
Illegitimate	...	3	3	0
Still Births	...	0	0	0
Legitimate	...	0	0	0
Illegitimate	...	0	0	0
Birth rate per thousand estimated resident population	...			17.64
Birth rate per thousand (Live and Still Births)	...			00.00
		Total	Male	Female
Deaths	...	89	49	40
Death Rate per 1000 estimated resident population	...			15.55
Deaths from diseases and accidents of pregnancy and child-birth:				
Puerperal Sepsis :	...			0
Other Puerperal Causes	...			0
		Total	Male	Female
Deaths of infants under 1 year of age	...	3	2	1
Death rate of infants per 1000 live births	...			29.70

Causes of Death during 1948.

	Male	Female
Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System ..	3	0
Influenza	0	1
Cancer of stomach and duodenum ...	1	3
Cancer of breast	0	4
Cancer of all other sites ...	5	3
Diabetes	0	1
Intra-cranial vascular lesions ...	5	5
Heart Diseases	15	14
Bronchitis	1	2
Pneumonia	2	0
Other respiratory diseases ...	3	0
Other digestive diseases ...	3	2
Nephritis	1	2
Con. Mal. birth Inj. infant dis. ...	1	0
Suicide	1	0
Other violent causes ...	2	1
All other causes	6	2
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	49	40
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	Total 89	

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.**Dairies and Cowsheds.**

There are 13 Wholesale Producers and 13 Retailers registered. Dairies have been inspected 29 times and Cowsheds 10 times.

Slaughterhouses.

There are 2 licensed slaughterhouses (closed since control by M. of F.) and a public abattoir. (See Meat Inspection).

Eradication of Vermin

(a) Council Houses Infested	0
(b) Other Houses Infested	9
(c) Disinfestation	9
Bedding, etc. destroyed	4

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

National Advisory Milk Testing Scheme.

Sampling for cleanliness testing continued to be undertaken by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

Periodic sampling for presence of Tubercle infection has been commenced. All samples but one were negative. Exhaustive tests carried out by the Ministries Veterinary Staff failed to substantiate the one positive result, and all subsequent tests proved negative.

Water Supplies.

Supply has been adequate. Chlorination has been continued at the main source as a final treatment after filtration, but owing to subsequent mixing by smaller untreated auxiliary supplies, satisfactory chlorination of the final water is very difficult. Frequent tests for residual chlorine in the tap water have been made.

The Water Engineer has continued the practice of taking samples monthly for bacteriological examination.

Housing.

Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for defects	130
Number of houses in which defects were remedied by Informal Notices	71

Action under Statutory Powers.

No. of houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring repair under Housing Act, 1936	5
No. rendered fit after service of Statutory Notice :	
(a) By Owners	3
(b) By Local Authority in default	1
No. of houses in respect of which Notices were served under Public Health Act	4
No. of houses in which defects were remedied after service of Statutory Notice :	
(a) By Owners	4
(b) By Local Authority in default	0
Numbers of houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	3
Number of parts of dwellings in respect of which Closing Orders were made	4

INSPECTION OF FACTORIES.

	No. of Inspe- tions	No. of Written Notices	No. of Prosecu- tions
Factories (with Mechanical Power) ...	10	1	0
Factories (without Mechanical Power) ...	4	0	0
	<hr/> 14	<hr/> 1	<hr/> 0

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

Disease	Total cases notified	Cases admitted to Hosp.
Scarlet Fever ...	12	4
Chickenpox ...	0	0
Diphtheria ...	0	0
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid) ...	0	0
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	0	0
Pneumonia ...	0	0
Erysipelas ...	1	1
Measles ...	263	0
Whooping Cough ...	30	0
Malaria ...	2	0
Dysentery ...	1	0
	<hr/> 309	<hr/> 5

CASES ADMITTED TO ISOLATION HOSPITAL, KINGS ASH,
PAIGNTON, from Dartmouth Borough during 1948 :

Total number of cases : 4 Scarlet Fever.
1 Erysipelas.

Tuberculosis.

The number of cases on the Register at the end of the year was :—

	Male.	Female.	Total.
Pulmonary ...	17	20	37
Non-Pulmonary ...	11	9	20

There were 7 new notifications of Pulmonary and 1 of Non-pulmonary Tuberculosis during the year.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

A. DICK,

M.D., CH.B., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health and

Medical Officer of the Infant Welfare Centre.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Sanitary Inspector

To His Worship the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Report for the year ending the 31st December, 1948.

MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION.

No. of food animals slaughtered at the	
Abattoir 	5564

Amount charged to the Ministry for	
slaughtering and rental of offices ..	£307 9 6

Weight of meat condemned :

Carcases and parts	23,608 lbs.
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Offal 	13,415 lbs.
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Total 37,023 lbs

	% Affected with T.B.
No. of cattle inspected 844	9.0

Causes of Condemnation. Tuberculosis, Fevered Flesh, Actinomycosis, Oedema, Immaturity Emaciation, Pyæmia, Bruising, Parasitic Invasion, Septic Pleurisy, Caries, Moribund, Angioma, Cirrhosis, Pneumonia, Abscesses.

OTHER FOODS.

Tinned meat, fish, tinned milks, etc. :

Weight condemned, 632 lbs.

MILK SAMPLES.

19 samples were submitted for the Methylene Blue keeping-quality test, of which number 9 milks passed. 15 samples were submitted for T.B. examination, from which 14 negative results were obtained.

FOOD PREMISES.

107 inspections were made of premises where food is prepared (bake houses, fishmongers, ice cream premises).

DISINFECTION:—17 Premises were fumigated and the bedding, clothing, etc., disinfected in the Town Council's disinfectory.

RAT AND MICE DESTRUCTION ACT, 1919. INFESTATION ORDER, 280.—One operator engaged jointly between Dartmouth and Brixham.

During the year the bodies of 270 rats and 67 mice were recovered from premises treated.

Drainage Work.

Drains tested—21

Defective drains repaired or renewed—18.

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Meat & Sanitary Inspectors
and Rodent Officers, etc

